

TOWN OF AMHERST
TOWN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING, NOV. 16, 2006

Present at meeting:

Barry Roberts, Ira Bryck, Peter Grandonico, Jr., N. Leigh Dunlap, Jerry Jolly, Mark Parent, Jonathan Tucker, Leslie Arriola and Gloria Chang-Wade.

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted, with no modifications.

OLD BUSINESS

- TCRC's recommendation to the Planning Board on Warrant Article 11 re Main and High Street rezoning to B-VC was received by the Planning Board. The zoning sub-committee was scheduled to meet on December 6th.
- New TCRC members still to be appointed. Leslie reported that the following filed the necessary forms to become members at large: Jeffrey Blaustein, Donna Kelley, Jeff Krauth and Rick Trahan. Barry will contact Bruce Carson to apply for membership also. Mark will follow up with the Select Board on this.
- Update on Master Plan. Jonathan reported that the Comprehensive Planning Committee is still in the planning stages for forming working groups. It is assumed that TCRC would be a lead working group.

NEW BUSINESS

- Allocation of Tax Levy by Select Board for FY 2007. On Nov. 27, 2006, the Select Board is holding a meeting to seek public input on next year's tax levy. TCRC voted unanimously to support in its entirety all 3 recommendations, Motions #1, #2, and #3 by the Board of Assessors, not to have split tax rate. The concern is that a split tax rate would prove repressive to the business community.
- The Committee is interested in improving the permit process and would like to give input to improve the process.
- The lack of available parking downtown is still a major issue of concern to the business community. Suggestions for additional parking was discussed. At the next TCRC meeting: Jonathan and Leslie will give a presentation on existing / pre-existing parking plans, Leigh will discuss possible funding venues, Jonathan and Ira will research innovative parking measures and Peter will discuss parking on Lessey St.
- It was decided to invite the new Town Manager, Larry Shaffer, to the next TCRC meeting.

The Committee voted to cancel its December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, January 18th, 2007 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gloria Chang-Wade